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ABSTRACT

The Community Childhood Identification Project (CCHIP) is regarded as a model for measuring hunger in low-income families. This second and final CCHIP study was the result of surveys conducted at 11 sites in 9 states and the District of Columbia between 1992 and 1994. A total of 5,282 households were interviewed. Chapters in the report are as follows: (1) "The Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP)," including an overview of CCHIP operations, the questionnaire, how hunger was measured in the surveys, and characteristics of low-income households; (2) "Hunger and Its Effect on Families," detailing key findings, characteristics of hungry families, hunger as a chronic condition, and coping with hunger; (3) "Food Assistance Programs," including federal programs, characteristics of participants, the Food Stamp program, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, and the school lunch and breakfast programs; and (4) "Hunger and Financial Resources," focusing on expenditures for food, shelter, and other necessities. The central findings of the CCHIP study are that 4 million children under age 12 in this country are hungry, and another 9.6 million are at risk of hunger. Hungry children are far more likely to experience health problems and miss school more often that their low-income peers who are not hungry. The report ends with an overview of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), its mission, and its new program--Building Blocks. Eleven appendices include the CCHIP chronology/survey sites, hunger rates for households in 11 CCHIP survey sites, and characteristics of low-income households with children under age 12 in the CCHIP surveys and in the U.S. Decennial Census. (BGC)